

DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 3 • ISSUE 4 • SEPTEMBER, 1998

DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp

The second DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp was held July 21-24, 1998 at the Stow Campus of the Department of Fire Services. Approximately 150 campers from 75 fire departments across the state were able to learn about fire safety, careers in firefighting, fire investigation, and develop friendships in a unique environment.

Campers learned about the chemistry of fire through a science experiment, learned about the questions fire investigators ask to solve a case from a State Trooper, saw a demonstration on how accelerant detection dogs assist arson investigators, learned to tie knots

and watched DFS staff volunteers rappel off the training tower. They also learned about smoke detectors and home escape planning in the Fire Safety House provided by District 14, and about the tools firefighters use from Recruit Programs staff. The Hazardous Devices Unit put on a spectacular *Danger of Fireworks*

Continued on page 2



Learning to aim the nozzle. Camp photos by Sue Peltier.

Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, 1998

The National Fire Protection Association has announced the 1998 Fire Prevention Week theme, *Fire Drills: The Great Escape*. The goal is to bring one of the most important fire safety messages to the forefront of people's attention. Smoke alarms give precious time to escape, but too many people die because they don't know how to escape when they can't see, can't breathe, or can't use the usual exits. Fire Prevention Week takes place each

Continued on page 8



From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

The FY '99 Budget is in place for the Department of Fire Services which maintains our ability to deliver services to the public and to the fire departments of Massachusetts. We are thankful for the support of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, the Administration and the Legislature which allows us to continue the valuable training, enforcement, regulatory, and emergency response duties we have to the fire service and to protect the public's safety.

We would like to thank Kathleen O'Toole for the support and leadership she has shown the fire service during her tenure as Secretary of Public Safety. We wish her well in her new endeavors. David Rodham, who as Undersecretary had responsibility for the Office of Emergency Services which includes the Department of Fire Services, has accepted the position of Acting Secretary. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Mr. Rodham, especially on projects that better coordinate the services of the agencies in the Executive Office of Public Safety to the public.

Continued on page 6

Summer Camp

Continued from page 1

Demonstration each day where the campers could compare the damage a firework did to a piece of plywood to what could happen to a human body part. A scavenger hunt where each team took photos of ten items such as "something that represents the heat side of the fire triangle" served as a secret test of what the campers had learned. (Thanks to Trudy Turcotte and Kristy Sieffert of Granby Fire for creating it!) The day concluded with a mini-muster.

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts

Summer Camp is also about partnerships – between state agencies, private companies and public organizations and between state and local levels of the fire service. The success of the summer camp was due in large part to the volunteer service of members of the DFS staff and all the firefighter-educators from around the state, particularly the enthusiastic S.A.F.E.rs. Whether directly involved with the campers or performing the many behind the scene tasks, the commitment of these volunteers made it the

success that it was. Department of Public Health Commissioner Howard Koh asked Marie-Eileen Onieal, a health policy advisor, registered nurse and sister to National Fire Academy Superintendent Dennis Onieal, to serve as camp nurse for four



Chief M. Dumont helps with the mini-muster.

scorching days. "M-E" as she was called by the children kept a watchful eye on both campers and volunteers to guard against dehydration and over exposure to the sun while also bandaging skinned knees and a SAFER's sprained ankle. The Department of Corrections contributed buses and drivers each day. The MBTA also contributed a bus to help transport campers back and forth. We were lucky to have



Learning to tie knots.

many corporate sponsors this year that donated everything from oranges to T-shirts to film for the scavenger hunt.

Summer Fire Safety Camp is not just about fire safety. Campers left the Department of Fire Services

with many valuable life lessons. We hope that positive role models encouraged interest in public safety as well as the importance of teamwork and mutual respect. We hope these children will make an important contribution to the future safety of the citizens of Massachusetts. ♦

CD-ROM Training Package for Fire Investigators

Massachusetts has assisted the U.S. Fire Administration to develop an interactive CD-ROM training package for fire investigators in more than one way.

A May 11, 1998 Boston Globe article described the filming of a controlled burn in New Braintree that will be used in this multimedia training package for arson investigators. What the Globe forgot to mention is that former Fire Investigation Unit Commander Lt. Robert Corry is working as a consultant to the U.S. Fire Administration on this project.

The program will show an actual fire scene and will take the trainee step-by-step through proper scene examination procedures and evidence collection techniques. Using the mouse, investigators-in-training, will be able to enter the building and even lift up objects in the burned out house to see what is underneath. The interactive software has a picture of an "arsonist" for those who solve the crime. ♦

Is Your E-Mail Getting the Job Done?

*Reprinted from the March, 1998
Issue of Client Line*

Faster than snail mail and more likely to be read than junk mail, e-mail can be a great way to communicate with your clients, customers or staff. That is, if you take the time to send an effective message. Here are some tips:

Put your major points up front, in the first few sentences of your message. Save the details and miscellaneous information for later in the text.

Whenever possible, outline information in short, bulleted lists. This will make your message much easier to read.

Avoid the temptation to dash off a message without checking the spelling and punctuation first. Treat your e-mail as you do any other business communication. Remember, your words reflect you and the quality of your work. ♦

Papa Gino's Sponsoring Open Houses Again

With Fire Prevention Week right around the corner, Papa Gino's would like to invite eligible fire departments to participate in this year's Fire Prevention Awareness Program. For the past five years Papa Gino's has sponsored open houses at fire departments throughout New England. This year's program includes departments in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine. Papa Gino's will be directly contacting those fire departments which are eligible to participate. Please do not call Papa Gino's directly. In support of these open houses, Papa Gino's will provide pizza, a banner, a poster and activity sheets developed in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association. ♦

Firefighter Certification Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary in Massachusetts

*Robert Rand
Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Today is the day! Exactly ten years ago today, the first statewide certification examination was administered for the Massachusetts Fire Training Council. The level was Fire Instructor I and had three sections. The first was a Firefighter III equivalency written exam because we did not have any firefighter level exam on line as of yet. The second was a written exam for Fire Instructor I. The third section, which was conducted about one month later, was the practical exam for Instructor I. This all happened in temporary quarters on Horse Pond Road in Sudbury on a warm summer day without air conditioning. Many took the examination and revisions were made to clear any differences. I was at that examination and have seen the changes we have made to only make it better. It is quite an achievement. Ten years later, we are conducting examinations for ten (10) levels of certification. I just wanted to thank everyone, many are not even with this agency anymore, for their assistance and support in making this a model program up to which other states have looked. The team approach does work and we can make a difference. Thanks again. ♦

Congressional Fire Services Institute News

Fire Service Prevails on Important Haz Mat Provision

June 3, 1998

On May 28, 1998 the American fire service succeeded in keeping intact the hazardous materials safety regulations that took 10 years to negotiate.

After a long, tumultuous debate over the \$216 billion transportation bill, Congress decided that a provision to exempt agricultural businesses from federal hazardous material safety regulations was too controversial and struck the amendment from the conference language.

Patience and persistence paid off for major fire service organization members of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) that embarked on a full fledged campaign to rally members of Congress to oppose the agriculture exemption.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA 21 bill, is a six year surface transportation plan that would provide the nation's biggest investment in construction for the U.S. Highway System since the 1950's. The proposed amendment which was defeated would have effectively allowed agricultural motor carriers to transport large quantities of hazardous materials without placards and shipping papers. President Clinton is expected to sign the bill. ♦

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION INFORMATION

May 21, 1998
Release # 98-114

CPSC, S.C. Johnson Announce Recall of Gel Candles from Glade

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), S.C. Johnson & Son Inc., of Racine, Wis., is voluntarily recalling about 1.7 million Gel Candles from Glade. These candles can burn with higher than normal flames, as high as 3 inches above the container, posing a potential fire hazard. S.C. Johnson is aware of 11 consumer complaints of the gel candles burning with a high flame. No injuries or damage have been reported.

These 3-oz. Gel Candles from Glade have clear, round glass containers about 2 1/2 inches high that contain a scented, hardened gel. The transparent gel candles were sold in three scents and colors: the Raspberry Field-scented gel candles are red, the Freesia Bouquet-scented gel candles are purple and the Tropical Mist-scented gel candles are blue.

Grocery and retail stores nationwide sold the gel candles between March 1998 and May 1998 for between \$2 and \$3.

May 22, 1998
Release # 98-116

CPSC, Conros Corp. Announce Recall of Fuel Canisters for Outdoor Bamboo Torches

In cooperation with the U.S. CPSC, Conros Corp., of Toronto, Canada, is voluntarily recalling about 30,000 "Summer Lights" brand fuel canisters for outdoor bamboo torches. The fuel canister assembly can cause the bamboo pole to ignite.

Conro is aware of three incidents in Ontario, Canada, in which the bamboo pole caught on fire. No injuries or property damage was reported.

The recall involves only those "Summer Lights" torches equipped with a refillable plastic fuel canister with a metal flame guard attached by a spring. "Summer Lights Torch...Refillable Fuel Canister," is written on the front of the plastic fuel canister. Consumers fill the fuel canisters with citronella and place them into a bamboo pole. Mass merchandise stores nationwide sold the torches from April through May 1998 for about \$5.

June 25, 1998
Release # 98-133

CPSC, EKCO Housewares Inc. Announce Recall of Skillets

In cooperation with the U.S. CPSC, EKCO Housewares Inc., of Franklin Park, Ill., is voluntarily recalling about 16,800 12-inch skillets. The skillets' handle could bend or break and cause the skillets' hot contents to spill onto consumers, creating a risk of injury.

CPSC and EKCO are not aware of any injuries involving these skillets. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

There are two types of skillets being recalled: Eterna 12-inch stainless steel skillets and Endura 12-inch non-stick stainless steel skillets. The EKCO Eterna 12-inch stainless steel skillets have the following identification embossed on the bottom of each pan, "EKCO Eterna, EKCO Housewares, Inc., 18/10 Stainless Steel, Made in China." The EKCO Endura 12-inch non-stick stainless steel skillets have the following

identification embossed on the bottom of each pan, "EKCO Housewares, Inc., 18/10 Stainless Steel, Made in China."

Kmart stores nationwide sold the Eterna skillets from April through May 1998 for about \$30. Wal-Mart stores nationwide sold the Endura skillets from September 1997 through May 1998 for about \$26.

Consumers should stop using the skillets immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information about the Eterna skillets sold at Kmart, consumers should call EKCO toll-free at (888) 418-9406 anytime. For more information about the Endura skillets sold at Wal-Mart, consumers should call EKCO toll-free at (888) 778-0504 anytime.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number.

Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov> or via Internet gopher services at gopher.cpsc.gov.

July 1, 1998
Release # 98-136

CPSC Holds Fireworks Safety Press Conference on Mall in Washington

Continued on page 5

CPSC

Continued from page 4

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) held an exhibition today on the Mall in Washington to demonstrate the dangers associated with sparklers, bottle rockets, and some illegal devices, including M-80s and salutes. Improper use of fireworks or use of illegal fireworks can result in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns.

In 1997, hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,300 fireworks related injuries. About 50 percent of the injuries were burns mostly to the hands, eyes and head. Nearly half of the victims were under 15 years of age. "Last year, I was happy to report the first decrease of fireworks related injuries in 10 years," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Unfortunately the injuries have not continued to decrease. That's why CPSC is here on the mall today and why we'll be here every year until no one is treated in a hospital emergency room for fireworks injuries."

"What a needless tragedy that every July 4, thousands of people, including many children, suffer devastating injuries because of fireworks used at celebrations," Brown said. "Let's turn this trend around. It only takes one simple step...leave the fireworks to the professionals."

As part of its fireworks enforcement program, CPSC prevents large numbers of hazardous fireworks from reaching store shelves. Working with the U.S. Customs Service since 1988, CPSC has seized or detained over 400 million hazardous fireworks at docks across the country. ♦

The Industrial Training Group

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy trains more than firefighters. The Industrial Training Group is an integral component of the Academy. The group's function is to provide training programs for the private sector, and in some cases for fire departments that have relationships with private sector organizations. These classes, which are individually designed to address OSHA and EPA compliance needs, are conducted either at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's facilities and/or the client site.

Program Coordinator Paul F. Vincequere states: "Our clients receive premium training from our certified instructors, who are members of the fire service throughout the Commonwealth; these training offerings are opportunities to create a safer workplace."

The Industrial Group will, at no cost to the prospective cus-

tomers, visit the company's workplace, discuss training needs, and create a proposal with the costs for the training that will be the vehicle to aid a corporation in attaining compliance with state and federal regulations. The revenue generated is used to defray some of the cost of delivery of training programs for the Commonwealth's firefighters.

As you traverse the state, if someone from private industry asks you if know of a place where they can obtain training, please point them in our direction. Our direct dial numbers, with voice mail capability, are as follows:

Program Coordinator
Paul F. Vincequere
(978) 567-3208

Assistant Coordinators
Jack Boland and Bob Zalewski
(978) 567-3207

Coordinators Assistant
Dick Erban and Scheduler
Donna Romano (978) 567-3206

Industrial Office Seminars

September 30, 1998

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Refresher

October 28, 1998

Incident Command for Industry

March 24, 1999

Health Care Fire Safety

April 21, 1999

Industrial Fire Safety

May 26, 1999

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Refresher

June 24, 1999

Hotel/Motel Fire Safety

For more information please contact the Industrial Program at the Mass. Firefighting Academy at (978) 567-3208. ♦

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Continued from page 1

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Very shortly we will be hiring a full-time professional Fire Protection Engineer in the Technical Services Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. This next step is the cornerstone of the reorganization effort of the agencies that became the Department of Fire Services. The Fire Prevention Engineer will work closely with the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, engage in a review of the fire code and consider the possible adoption of a national fire code in whole or in part. The technical expertise of an engineer completes the fire prevention triangle of compliance, enforcement, and engineering. Those involved in code compliance and enforcement are looking forward to the addition of this needed technical support.

This year we will continue the build-out of the Hazardous Devices Team in the Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit. Through a federal grant the team will be equipped with computer equipment, protective suits, and vehicles.

S.A.F.E. Funded for the 4th Consecutive Year

The Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program was funded for the fourth consecutive year at the same level as the past two years, \$1,078,666. The number of fire departments who submitted grant applications for FY '99 increased by 10%, or 20 departments, over last year for a total of 212. DFS will be purchasing three more fire safety houses this year bringing the total to 12. Fire Departments interested in seeing a fire safety house in their

district should coordinate within their fire training district and Chief Parow, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts. If funding continues for a fifth year in FY 2000, we will be able to complete the five-year plan to put a fire safety house in each of the fifteen fire districts.

Hazardous Materials Response

The successful efforts of fire service leaders in restoring to full funding to the six regional Hazardous Materials Response teams avoided potential jeopardy to the program. We are in a transition year switching the funding for the program from the bond fund to the DFS operating budget. In FY '99 the Legislature appropriated \$1.7 million, one-half of the funds needed for the program, for the DFS operating budget. This will ensure the continued smooth operation of the program under the leadership of Steve Clendenin and Paul Otenti.

Mass. Firefighting Academy

This past year we acquired two much needed pieces of apparatus, a tanker and an engine. For FY '99 the only new funds for capital equipment needs for the entire Department are contained in the Academy budget. These funds must be used for the Department of Fire Services' overall capital equipment needs which will include procurement and updating of fire training equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), protective clothing, hoses and ladders. It is imperative that we have reliable gear for the training staff. ♦

Juvenile Firesetting Conferences in New England

September 25, 1998

Juvenile Firesetting Conference
Holiday Inn, Cromwell, CT
For information contact: Phyllis Golec at (860) 627-6363 Ext. 221. Sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

November 4-7, 1998

5th Annual Conference for
Juvenile Firesetter Programs
Sheraton Tara
Framingham, MA
For information contact Irene Pinsonneault at (508) 636-9149. Sponsored by the Coalition for Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs and the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriters Association. ♦

Blasting Training Program for Fire Department Personnel

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has announced a series of three-hour seminars for the September/October time frame. These seminars will address 527 CMR 13 Explosives. The seminar is directed towards fire department personnel who deal with blasting projects in their respective communities and will cover terminology, key parts of CMR 13, seismograph setup, seismograph report interpretation and check list items for blasting site detail personnel. Please follow established Academy procedure for enrollment in one of these programs. ♦

Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

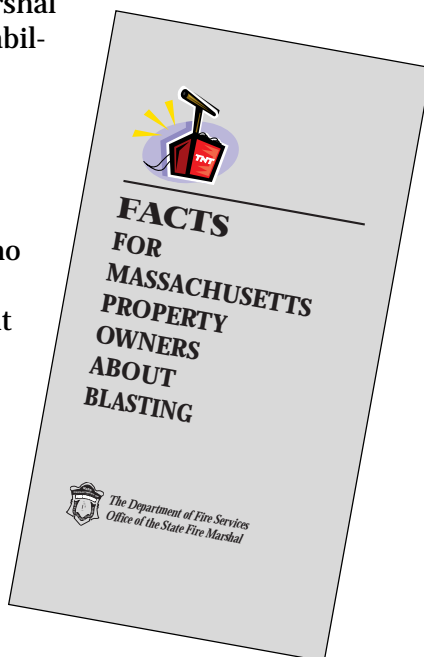
The next public hearing for the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations is on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at the Department of Fire Services, Stow, Massachusetts. The following are the proposed amendments to 527 CMR that will be voted upon at the hearing:

527 CMR 1.01(3):	Administration & Enforcement: Alternatives Methods & Materials
527 CMR 6.00:	LP-Gas Containers & Systems
527 CMR 9.02:	Tanks & Containers: Definitions
527 CMR 9.05(G)(8)(b):	Tanks & Containers: Upgrading of Existing Underground Storage Tank Systems
527 CMR 10.03(8):	Fire Prevention: Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Systems & Maintenance
527 CMR 10.03(13):	Fire Prevention: Hazards to Means of Egress
527 CMR 10.03(14):	Fire Prevention: Powered Industrial Trucks
527 CMR 10.03(15):	Fire Prevention: Fire Protection Systems
527 CMR 10.24(2):	Fire Prevention: Miscellaneous Provisions
527 CMR 12.00:	Massachusetts Electrical Code
527 CMR 23.07:	Issuance of Certificates for the Servicing of Portable Fire Extinguishers and the Installing and Servicing of Fixed Fire Extinguishing Systems: Service Tags
527 CMR 24.00:	Fire Warning Systems

If you would like to obtain copies of the full texts of the proposed amendments or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Maura Ware, Legal Counsel at (978) 567-3181. ♦

Facts for Massachusetts Property Owners About Blasting

The Office of the State Fire Marshal recently announced the availability of a pamphlet titled *Facts For Massachusetts Property Owners About Blasting*. To date, a good number of departments have requested copies. There have even been a few blasting contractors who have requested copies as well. Public relations is a very important aspect of the blasting operation and while this pamphlet certainly is not the solution, it can be a useful tool. These pamphlets will continue to be available on an ongoing basis and are packaged in bundles of 50. Contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 978-567-3300 to request copies. ♦



Blasting Bonds, Insurance, Users Certificates and Certificates of Competency

Should questions arise about the status or validity of a blasting contractor's bond, certificate of insurance, *Users Certificate* or Blaster's *Certificate of Competency* a quick call to Lori Alden at the Office of the State Fire Marshal will provide you with an answer. Lori can be reached at 978-567-3305 and will be glad to help you. The *Users Certificate* does represent that the contractor has a valid bond and certificate of insurance. The *Users Certificate* expires on the same expiration date as the bond or certificate of insurance, which ever is earlier. In some cases the dates are concurrent. ♦

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION NEWS

4th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Safety Public Education Conference September 29-30, 1998

The 4th Annual Fire and Safety Public Education Conference will be held at the Worcester Holiday Inn on September 29-30, 1998. There will be a networking dinner on September 29 followed by adult-oriented *edutainment* from Cinder and Sparkles the Fire Clowns. Registration materials containing the workshop descriptions for the Conference are available. The Mass. Public Fire and Safety Education Task Force, which serves as the planning committee each year, has worked hard to have many new and interesting workshops. Their goal is to provide basic training for new fire educators, workshops that will interest our community partners, as well as new skill development workshops for experienced life safety educators.

Special Senior Fire Safety Focus

The second day of the conference this year has a special focus on senior fire safety. Statistics tell us that the very old and the very young are the two highest risk age groups for fire and burn injuries. With the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program we have an excellent beginning for school-based programs. The Coalition of Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Programs has made inroads on the problem of juvenile firesetting, but little has been done to date to develop a coordinated approach and strategy for reaching seniors. Seniors are the fastest growing segment of our population. What are the ways to reach this target audience? Who does

the fire service need to partner with? What are the obstacles to anticipate?

Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker is Denver Fire Chief Richard Gonzales who is known across the nation as a motivational speaker and an innovator in the fire service. His presentation *Ducks and Dogs: Community Partnerships for Fire Prevention* has been well received at conferences in North Carolina and Oklahoma.

Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award

Nominations for the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award are due by September 8, 1998. Do you know a firefighter, EMT, nurse, Lion's Club member, teacher, elder service worker or health educator that has made a significant contribution to life

safety education in the community, the region, or the state? Nominate them for the Educator of the Year Award. Forms are included in the registration materials. The Award will be given at the conference at lunch time on September 29.

Building Community Partnerships

Life safety educators are aware they cannot solve community problems alone; they must work with others in the community to be effective. In order to encourage such partnerships, there is a small reduction in the registration fee when firefighters register with a teacher, nurse, elder service worker, town official, or other community partner.

For more information contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at 978-567-3380. ♦

Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, 1998

Continued from page 1

year during the week of October 9, to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Statewide Fire Drill

The NFPA is trying to organize a single, unified North American fire drill at 6 p.m. on October 7, 1998. Fire educators throughout the country are encouraged to work with school children to develop home escape plans and then to put those plans into action during Fire Prevention Week's public fire drill. Although the idea of a public fire drill is not new, (Wenham Fire Prevention has been doing this for years.) It is a new idea to coordinate the efforts of all the com-

munities in the United States and Canada. One of the great things about this idea is that it motivates people to act on their own fire safety. Consider getting local media coverage of a celebrity family (the mayor's, the fire chief's, the High School principal's) doing their fire drill. If your energy and resources are limited, concentrate on getting the families in a single school to participate in the public fire drill.

Please keep our Public Information Office (Fax: 978-567-3199) informed of events that you coordinate so that we may help get the word out. ♦

S.A.F.E. PROGRAM

Family Fire Safety Day, Sept. 12th, Houghton's Pond

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Department of Fire Services will sponsor the 3rd annual Family Fire Safety Day on Saturday, September 12, 1998 from 11 am to 4 pm. This special event will be held at Houghton's Pond in the MDC's Blue Hills Reservation in Milton.

Family Fire Safety Day is a fun and educational event. Last year's weather was beautiful and young and old alike were treated to many exciting fire activities, demonstration and displays. Family Fire Safety Day is a family event designed to promote fire awareness through safety activities, displays, children's games, helicopter and fire engine demonstrations and tours. Antique and new fire engines will be on display at the event. Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog® will be on hand. There is no admission charge and the food concession will be open.

S.A.F.E. Educators, Fire Departments or organizations wishing to participate should contact Andy Reardon at the S.A.F.E. Program (978) 567-3385. ♦

Western Mass Family Fire Safety Day

Thirty S.A.F.E. Educators from across the Commonwealth combined their efforts at the New England Fire Chiefs' Convention in West Springfield, on Sunday, June 28. Young and old alike interacted with the fire and life safety demonstrations and activities offered by the educators making for an enjoyable and educational day. The day culmi-

nated with a walk-a-thon sponsored by Prevent Blindness Massachusetts, one of our new coalition partners. Their energy, like those of the S.A.F.E. community, centers around the theme, *Leave Fireworks to the Professionals*. The inaugural walk raised \$1,500. ♦



4th Year of S.A.F.E. Grants

Both the State Senate and the House of Representatives voted to fund the S.A.F.E. Program for a fourth consecutive year. 212 communities will be vying for their share of the \$1.07 million appropriation. The number of communities has steadily increased from 130 communities in 1995 to 177 in 1996, and 193 communities in 1997. This continues to show an on-going commitment on the part of the fire service to recognize education as a viable, proactive means to fire prevention and life safety. The grant applications were due August 5, 1998 and they were sent to the members of the S.A.F.E. Grant Advisory Board for review on August 10. The scores are due back to the DFS by September 9. Once that information is entered and processed, recommendations for grant awards will be sent to the Secretary of Public Safety. The Secretary expects to announce the

awards before the end of September so that Fire Prevention Week plans and activities may benefit.

S.A.F.E. In-Services

The fall statewide in-service meeting is scheduled for November 20 in Milford. Another statewide in-service will be scheduled for the spring. Regional meetings for December and the spring are being formulated to service the needs of the firefighter/educator for the coming year.

MFA FY '99 Public Fire Educator Offerings

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator

Week long class (40 hours) for lead S.A.F.E. Educators
Oct 19-23, 1998
Medford

A second class will be scheduled for early 1999.

Public Fire Education Planning

A two-day class for managers of all public fire education programs

Nov. 21-22, 1998 (Sat- Sun to help out the call and volunteer departments) Stow, MFA

Public Education Presentation

A two-day class for public education instructors, perfect for beginners or people assisting the lead S.A.F.E. Educator

Nov. 16-17, 1998
Stow, MFA.

December 15-16, 1998
Springfield, Quinn Training Center

This two-day class will also be offered again in the spring. ♦

FIRE AND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATION UNIT

July, 17, 1998

4 Youths Arrested for Recent Series of Haverhill Auto Thefts and Fires

Haverhill residents, especially those in the Welcome Street Elderly Housing Complex, can sleep a little easier now. As a result of an on-going investigation by the Haverhill Fire Department, Police Department and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, four youths have been arrested for a series of car thefts, auto fires and a dumpster fire that took place between May 3 and June 13, 1998. The motive for these acts appears to be thrill-seeking.

On Monday, July 20, 1998, two of the four youths were back in Haverhill District Court to face charges of stealing cars in their Howe Street neighborhood and setting them on fire.

Gene M. Baker, 17, whose family lives at 24 Portland Street faced two counts of burning motor vehicles. In addition, he is wanted on outstanding warrants for three counts of burning a motor vehicle and four counts of vehicle theft. David Rosenberger, Sr., age 30, of 123 Howe Street is charged with two counts of burning motor vehicles.

These two attempted to steal a car from the parking lot of the elderly housing complex on June 13, 1998. When their theft attempt was unsuccessful they set the car on fire which spread to a second car parked next to it.

On August 5, 1998, two other members of this group were due back in court. Thomas S. Berard, age 21, currently residing at the Middleton County Jail and formerly of 123 Howe Street, Haver-

hill, is charged with four counts of motor vehicle theft, four counts of motor vehicle arson and burning a dumpster. One of these car fires happened a year ago but was solved as a result of this investigation. One of these cars was stolen from a handicapped spot at the elderly housing complex at 40 Welcome Street, Haverhill and burned across the street from the complex on May 14.

Also back in court to face charges on August 5, was William V. Morse, age 23, of 83 Bailey Street, Lawrence. He has been arrested for theft and arson of a motor vehicle and the May 5, dumpster fire at a construction site on Howe Street.

This case comes close on the heels of another series of arson fires recently solved by the close collaboration between the Haverhill Fire Department, Haverhill Police Department and state police investigators in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. On June 1, 1998 three Haverhill youths were arrested for a series of arson fires that took place between mid-March and May 31st. The fires took place close together in the Seventh Avenue and Cedar Street area of Haverhill. The arsons included a trash barrel, a dumpster, a dwelling, three motor vehicles and two sheds. Brandon K. Easter, 19, Daniel H. Butler, 18, and a juvenile were arrested. The juvenile is currently on probation for setting fire to an abandoned mill a year ago that caused extensive damage and has been committed to the Department of Youth Services until his eighteenth birthday.

All three were arrested and charged with arson of a dwelling, two counts of arson of a building,

three counts of burning personal property and breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to burn.

Ferrari Fire While Fueling at Service Station

A fire at a full-service Sunoco Gas Station on 781 Chief Justice Cushing Highway (Route 3A), Scituate took place on Wednesday, July 15, 1998 at 18:10.

Joe Kramer, a drummer for the rock group Aerosmith, was sitting in his Ferrari while it was being fueled at the gas pumps. The car was in the neutral position and running at the time. An eyewitness on the other side of pump saw a pool of gasoline developing underneath the car while it was being fueled by attendant. The attendant was cleaning the windshield when the car burst into flames. Mr. Kramer exited the vehicle himself and suffered 2nd degree burns to both arms and legs and face. He was transported to at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth. The gas station attendant was treated for smoke inhalation and one firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion at South Shore Hospital.

It appears that the cause of the fire was a malfunction in or around the gas filler which caused a leak. Heat or a spark from the catalytic converter or the electric fuel pump ignited the gasoline vapors.

August 20, 1998

Pressure Vessel Explosion Cause of Andover Plant Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D.

Continued on next page

Fire Investigations

Continued from previous page

Coan and Andover Fire Chief Harold J. Wright announced their joint investigation of the July 25, 1998 explosion at the Bodycoat IMT Inc. plant has concluded and that the cause was failure of a pressure vessel.

"Considering the total devastation to the building, it is miraculous that no one was killed and that there were not more serious injuries in this explosion," State Fire Marshal Coan said about the \$30 million fire. One worker was blown thirty feet in the air. He was treated at hospital for lacerations and a concussion.

"I would like to thank the firefighters from Andover and neighboring communities who helped to bring this fire under control. I would also like to commend the excellent team effort of our fire investigator and the State Police investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal who swiftly concluded the cause and origin part of this investigation," said Chief Wright.

Bodycoat IMT, Inc., located at 155 River Street, Andover, heat-treats engine parts in a process that strengthens the metal parts. During the third shift at the busy River Street plant, a pressure vessel measuring 20 feet long by 6 feet round, was filled with Argon gas to 15,200 P.S.I. It was then heated to 1,650 degrees in order to make aircraft engine parts. During this procedure, the vessel fractured and an explosion occurred, sending large parts of the vessel throughout the plant and surrounding area. Part of the plant was destroyed by the explosion and subsequent fire.

Top metallurgists will fully examine metal pieces from the vessel and try to determine the exact

cause of why the vessel failed. This full analysis should be complete within 90 days.

The vessel that failed is the only one of its size in this country and is used to process large aircraft engine parts. It is feared that the loss of needed airplane parts processed by Bodycoat could affect their customers — large companies who construct airplanes.

August 4, 1998

Two Teens Charged with Setting Gardner Warehouse Fire

As a result of a joint investigation, by the Gardner Fire and Police Departments and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, of the fire at L and Z Kamman Co., 90 Mechanic Street, Gardner, the cause has been determined to be incendiary. Two Gardner juveniles, aged 13 and 14, will be charged in Gardner District Court with one count of Chapter 266-2, Burning a Building. A search of the building by the Massachusetts State Police cadaver dog, found no victims in the structure.

August 17, 1998

Public Safety at Public Displays of Fireworks Reinforced

On August 13, 1998 a Clerk Magistrate's Hearing was held in Falmouth District Court for a complaint sought by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against George Allen, the licensed shooter at Falmouth's Fourth of July display.

There was an agreement reached by all parties and no complaints were issued, however, the application was left open for one year pending any further issues. This

agreement includes a restitution amount to the Office of the State Fire Marshal which will be used for public education purposes.

"We believe that this outcome reinforces the efforts of the Office of the State Fire Marshal in cooperation with the local fire departments to ensure the safety of the viewing public at professional fireworks displays," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. "Our goal first and foremost is to ensure public safety at these events," said Coan.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will hold an administrative hearing on Mr. Allen's Fireworks Certificate of Competency in September.

June 4, 1998

2-Year Old Burned by Gasoline at State Campground

State Fire Marshal Offers Tips for Safe Camping Season

The tragic burn injury of a two-year old girl at the Harold Parker State Park campground on the morning of June 2, has prompted the State Fire Marshal to offer a few camping safety tips. The parents had been using gasoline from a gas can to "jump start" the campfire the night before. The two children age four and two were up before their parents on June 2. While "fooling around" their clothes became soaked in gasoline. It is not clear if the young girl's clothes were ignited by the four year old using a cigarette lighter or if a spark or ember leftover from the campfire the night before provided the ignition source.

The parents smothered the flames and then began driving the child to a nearby hospital. The parents

Continued on page 19

LOCAL FPW PRESS RELEASE

Department Letterhead

For Immediate Release [date]

Contact: [name], [title]

[telephone #]

Fire Chief [Last Name] Announces Public Fire Drill for Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week will take place October 4-10, 1998. This year's theme *Fire Drills: The Great Escape* is designed to help families prepare and practice a home escape plan. "This is the single most important step people can take, after installing smoke detectors, to protect themselves from the devastation of fire," said Fire Chief [Full Name with Middle Initial].

At 6 p.m. on October 7, 1998 the [name of town] Fire Department will be sponsoring a citywide fire drill. We will be participating in a state and national effort to conduct a national fire drill. At 6 p.m. the siren at the central fire station will sound, kicking off the public fire drill.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "I hope that everyone will take five minutes on the evening of October 7 to practice their home escape plan together. It is my goal to eliminate needless fire deaths in this state and to raise a fire safe generation of children. We can only reach this goal, if each person takes the time to make sure the smoke alarm works every day and night and practice a home escape plan."

[name of public fire educator], [name of town]'s [public fire educator or S.A.F.E. Educator] will be coordinating the effort through the [town] elementary schools.

OR

{If you have a celebrity family say}

[name of celebrity and title] and her[or his] family will be demonstrating their commitment to fire prevention and life safety by practicing their home escape plan on October 7.

[Add local story here. If you had a fatal fire last year, or fire with injury because someone did not have detectors or did not know how to escape the fire, tell it here in one paragraph.] Or

[Name of town] had [X] fires last year causing [#] civilian injuries, [#] firefighter injuries, [#] deaths, and an estimated dollar loss of \$[X]. Of the [X] fires, [#] were structure fires, [#] were motor vehicle fires and [#] were outside and other fires.

Elements of a good home escape plan include: working smoke detectors on every level of your home, an easy way out of every room (like the door) and second way out (like a window) and a meeting place out front.

Families should practice crawling low under smoke if they cannot find a smoke free way out. Teach children to leave everything behind, go to the meeting place and to stay outside. Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.

For more information on fire safety or how to develop a home escape plan please call [name of public educator] at [telephone number].

-30-

{ this means end of press release }

Blasting Damage Complaint Procedure

Todd Harrington, Explosives Safety Manager

Damage complaints are a frequent by-product of most every blasting operation. With the calls come a lot of questions, so the following will provide a brief review of the blasting damage complaint procedure as outlined in CMR 13. While some complaint calls are made because the property owner is unhappy about the project taking place, a very high percentage of complaints are filed for a single reason: the property owner sincerely believes that his home has been damaged. With respect for that belief, it is necessary to provide a response for the homeowner that also will initiate an investigation by the blasting contractor and his insurance company. Section 13.09(12) of 527 CMR 13 provides the vehicle for dealing with blasting damage complaints.

The first step after receiving a complaint is to instruct the property owner, that if they sincerely believe that damage has occurred, to come to the station to get a *Blasting Damage Complaint Form* and then fill it out and sign it. The property owner should be informed that the form has to be signed and returned within 30 days of the alleged blasting incident. Once the form has been filled out, signed and returned, then the blasting contractor, who holds the *Own and Possess Certificate*, can be informed of the complaint and directed to acknowledge receipt of the complaint by signing and dating the form. The blasting contractor then has 30 days to respond to the homeowner either directly or through his insurance company. At the same time the blaster is directed to submit the

blasting log(s) for the date(s) and time frame when the damage was alleged to have occurred.

While the above process is pretty straight forward, what happens next is a little more complicated. Keep in mind that determination of damage is not the job of either the local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The log review process is for the purpose of determining if violations of the regulation have occurred. Once the logs have been received, the head of the fire department must conduct a review of the blasting log(s) for violations of 527 CMR 13. There are a series of steps that should be taken at this point to determine if any obvious violations exist. The first step is to determine if the logs are in order. Are they complete, and do they have the required information? The next step relates to Section 13.09(9) of the Regulation, *Allowable Limits of Effects of Blasting*. There are three items associated with this section; flyrock, airblast and vibration. The blasting logs should not be necessary to determine if there has been flyrock, although the incident should be recorded on the log. Violations related to the other two items, airblast and vibration, are obvious only through investigation of the log and the seismograph report. This is where the process becomes more technical in nature. Once the logs are compared to the limits established in the regulation, the entire package is then forwarded to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Should violations exist, the enforcement unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal may either issue a warning, or, call the blaster in for a hearing, depending on the severity of the violation. Additionally, a database is being developed to log and track

complaints. At the local level, should the blasting still be in progress, violations found during a complaint investigation are grounds for suspension of the *Use and Handling Permit* until corrective measures have been addressed by the blasting contractor; described in 13.09(11)(e).

Interpretation of the blasting log and seismograph report for violations related to noise and vibration tends to be the most complicated step. It is suggested that should problems arise at this stage, a call be made to the OSFM for assistance from the Explosives Safety Manager (978-567-3370). As described above, the complaints do get a thorough review by the OSFM. However, a frequent "complaint" from local departments centers on the fact that there currently is no return correspondence to the fire department acknowledging that the complaint has been received, reviewed and confirmation that violations do or do not exist. Since this has been a frequent topic, and it is understood that the fire departments have an interest in how the OSFM has viewed the complaint, options to address this portion of the process are under review.

As a brief reminder, a number of complaint forms are received at the OSFM without logs attached. In these instances, it is assumed that there have not been any obvious violations found at the local level, and that no further action is necessary. If there are violations, or any of the information on the log is questionable, please forward the entire package for review. ♦

Information from the U.S. Fire Administration

Downloaded from their website
www.usfa.fema.gov

Frequently Asked Questions About Year 2000 Compliance

The new millennium brings with it many new challenges, not the least of which is a potential problem with computer systems which may not be Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant. The issue is of such importance that the President has established a special Y2K Council. The Council's purpose is to oversee Federal efforts to have government computer systems make the Year 2000 transition successfully. In addition, Federal agencies have agreed to take the lead to inform their constituents of the problems their systems may face in the Year 2000. For this reason, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration has prepared this brochure to offer a basic explanation of the issues relating to Y2K compliance and the associated challenges facing one of our key partners, the fire service community.

What is the Year 2000 challenge?

The problem arises from a long-standing computer programming practice of using only two digits to represent a year - 97 as 1997 for example. When these computer systems encounter the Year 2000, the two-digit year "00" may be interpreted as "1900" instead of "2000." As a result, many computer systems - except for the most recent software and hardware versions - may fail to function or may produce errors after December 31, 1999. This problem is not just confined to computer systems. Any date-sensitive electronic device may be affected. For example, it may affect airline

schedules, VCRs, security systems, computer-aided dispatch, and other timed/dated applications.

Is this just another data processing project?

No. The Year 2000 is the first century change for automated systems. Unlike most data processing projects, the problem exists worldwide, and its due-date cannot be postponed. Even if an organization successfully changes all its systems by the Year 2000, the failure of a single key supplier or service provider could still greatly affect operations.

Is it a problem that only exists with mainframes and old midrange computers?

No. It is both a hardware and software problem for virtually all machines and programs on all platforms, computer types, and brands. Although the problem may affect the mainframe community most, midrange and personal computers are by no means safe. Computers have an internal clock that may or may not work properly after midnight on December 31, 1999. Some computer clocks could reflect 1900, 1980, or 1984, and others will accurately move into the Year 2000. This problem affects the operating system and real-time clock of a computer. Software applications need to be evaluated regardless of platform. A data mismatch can exist in any level of hardware or software from micro-code to application programs, files, and databases.

Who does the Year 2000 problem affect?

It is a significant problem across all industries and may affect any business, organization, or person using a computer or computer-

driven facilities. Any system or program, including desktop software, could be affected if two digits are used to represent the year. Data sharing adds to the possibility of contamination by two-digit data. In addition, building infrastructures, such as elevators, security systems, phone systems, environmental control systems, etc., may also experience problems or may cease to function. All systems, not just computer systems, need to be evaluated for Year 2000 readiness.

Is 2000 a Leap Year?

Yes. The rule for determining whether a given year is a leap year is: If the year is evenly divisible by 4, it is a leap year (except for years ending in 00 which are leap years only if evenly divisible by 400). The year 1900 was not a leap year. If your computer clock defaults to 1900, February 28 will be followed by March 1 skipping the leap year date of February 29.

Isn't there a lot of hype?

Yes. Unfortunately there are a lot of groups (e.g., consulting firms, software vendors, etc.), who are exploiting this situation for financial gain. However, as your organization begins to comprehend the problem and assess your situation, you will soon begin to determine what is fact, what is fiction, and what the true impact to your particular operations will be.

So how does this affect me?

Virtually anyone who relies on computers or electronic devices that refer to date and time may be affected in one way or another. This may affect your reporting systems, 911, dispatch and

Continued on next page

Y2K Advice from USFA

Continued from previous page
communications systems, and even the microcomputers that help run your apparatus and air condition your stations. When the Year 2000 arrives, non-compliant systems may not work as expected. Some failures will be minor annoyances; some may have more serious consequences.

What should I do?

You should review your systems and develop a plan to fix any problems you find. Contact your software developers and hardware suppliers to ask if the systems you are using are Y2K compliant. Coordinate with your county or city administrative offices to help identify corrective actions. A basic system check that can help you determine if your organization's computer system is Year 2000 compliant is available on this website at www.usfa.fema.gov/y2kcom.htm.

How is FEMA/USFA responding?

Y2K compliance is a top priority of FEMA's Information Technology Services Directorate. FEMA is committed to having all systems compliant well in advance of December 31, 1999, particularly those that interface with external users such as yourselves. The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Version 5.0, has been developed as compliant and is being implemented in 1998. In addition, a conversion program has been developed that will be applied to data from the old system to make it compatible with Version 5.0.

Where can I get additional information about the Year 2000 challenge?

Listed below are additional Web sites providing Y2K information:

www.y2k.gov

The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion.

www.year2000.com

Year 2000 Information Center.

www.it2000.com

The National Bulletin Board for the Year 2000.

www.netcom.com/~ggirod/bookmark.html

Provides a list of web pages that offer a wealth of technical and management information concerning the Year 2000.

www.mitre.org/research/y2k

Provides articles, vendor, technical, and management information about the Year 2000.

www.s390.ibm.com/stories/faq2000.html

IBM's page that answers frequently asked questions on the Year 2000 challenge.

www.nstl.com/html/ymark_2000.html

National Software Testing Labs website. Site provides the shareware needed to validate your personal computer's BIOS for Year 2000 readiness.

www.itaa.org

Information Technology Association of America's website.

www.datamation.com/PlugIn/workbench/yr2000/year.htm

Datamation's list of Year 2000 references.

www.treas.gov/cio/year2000.html

Department of the Treasury Year 2000 information site.

www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/mks/yr2000/y2khome.htm

GSA CIO Council. ♦

How Do I Know If My System Is Year 2000 Compliant?

The hardware and software for each system needs to be examined separately. A quick assessment of operating system and application software may be gained by looking at date fields within the application. If the system uses a 2-digit year field for data entry or if data are stored as a 2-digit year field, it is not Year 2000 compliant. This does not necessarily mean that your system will fail. System failure results from the way the software and the application uses dates. Computer users must also be aware that if they receive data from an internal or external source, they must ensure that the data source is Year 2000 compliant.

Hardware also needs to be checked for Year 2000 compliance. A compliant software product resident on a non-compliant hardware base may fail. Personal computers are easily checked. Computers attached to a local area network may provide a "network" date every time the personal computer is turned on. Any test must interrupt the boot process before the personal computer receives the network date, or the test will be invalidated. The test is simple:

1. Turn the personal computer off.
2. Turn the personal computer on.
3. The initial display will say "to enter setup, enter (F2, F8, or DEL, depending on the system)." Press the appropriate key within the first 2-3 seconds.
4. The CMOS or the setup screen will appear. Change the time to 23:59:00 (11:59 PM on a 24-hour clock).

Continued on page 16

New Apparatus

On July 1, 1998 the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy took delivery of two new pieces of fire training apparatus, which were built by E-One and supplied to the Academy by Greenwood Fire Apparatus of North Attleboro, MA.

Engine One

The pumper, Engine 1, is outfitted with a 1,250 gallon per minute Hale pump and a 750 gallon water tank. Above the water tank there is a four section divided hose bed. The cab carries six firefighters seated and belted and the pump panel is top mounted. Officer and crew seats are outfitted with SCBA racks. The pump is outfitted with dual readout extra large gauges for teaching purposes, a front suction and a large diameter hose (LDH) discharge. The officer side has low compartments with a ladder rack and hard suction above. The driver side has high and low compartments. Compartments are outfitted with roll-up doors. For attack lines there are two cross lays and two speed lays, each with a 200' two inch hose capacity. The engine is outfitted with a complete complement of Elkhart Brass nozzles, appliances and adapters.

Tanker One

The tanker, *Tanker 1*, is outfitted with a 1,250 gallon per minute Hale pump and a 1,500 gallon water tank. Above the water tank there is a four section divided hose bed. The cab carries six firefighters seated and belted. Officer and crew seats are outfitted with SCBA racks. The pump is outfitted with dual readout and extra large gauges for teaching purposes, a front suction and an LDH discharge. The officer side has low compartments with a ladder rack with 35' and 16'

ladders, and hard suction above. The driver side has high and low compartments. The high compartment houses a folded portable tank. Compartments are outfitted with roll-up doors. For attack lines there are two 200' two-inch cross lays. The tanker is outfitted with a complete complement of Elkhart Brass nozzles, appliances and adapters.

The total cost of these two pieces of training apparatus was \$469,376.00. ♦

Y2K Help from USFA

Continued from page 15

5. Change the date to 12/31/1999.
6. Exit the application per the computer instruction (each machine is different).
7. Turn the computer off. Wait one minute.
8. Turn the computer on and enter setup as above in step 3.
9. Read the date displayed in CMOS.

If the date reads 01/01/2000, your system is Year 2000 compliant! If the date reads today's date, you did not complete step 3 before the network clock downloaded and your test is invalid. Start over. If any date other than 01/01/2000 is displayed, the system failed the Year 2000 test and is not compliant.
10. Reset to the current date and time and then reboot the system.

Footnote from DFS MIS Unit

Rebecca Healy

Other dates to test out include September 8, 1999 23:59 to see if 9/9/99 is a problematic date, February 28, 2000 23:50 to see if February 29, 2000, leap year, is a problematic date. ♦

Fire Service Commission Members Sworn In

At a ceremony held on June 25, 1998, in the Executive Chamber of the State House, Governor Argeo Paul Cellucci officially swore in the members of the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission. A reception was held in Nurses' Hall for members of the Commission and their guests prior to the swearing in ceremony.

The Commission members are: Chief Ronald Cormier who serves as the Chairman and represents the FCAM (fully paid department); Firefighter David Coleman who represents the PFFM; Chief Marcel L. Dumont who represents FCAM (full call department); Chief Thomas E. Garrity who represents FCAM (part paid/part call department); John K. Golembeski, who represents the insurance industry; Chief Paul F. McCaffrey who represents FCAM (community within Metro); and Acting Public Safety Secretary David Rodham who had been the designee of former Public Safety Secretary Kathleen M. O'Toole.

The responsibilities of the Commission are: (1) appointment of a fire marshal; (2) promulgation of regulations and policies pertaining to the operation of the Office of the State Fire Marshal; (3) review of the annual budget developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal; (4) advising the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding state and national fire codes; and (5) consulting with the Massachusetts Fire Training Council to develop standards for fire investigation training and certification. ♦

Worthington Fire Department Prepared to Respond to Plane Crash

John P. McNamara, Coordinator, Field Programs

Last June 6 and 7 (a Saturday & Sunday) an MFA Field Program was held in Worthington MA, hosted by the fire department. The program was *Small Aircraft Rescue*, a 12-hour program. The instructor was John Burke who is the Deputy Chief with the Sherborn Fire Department, an attorney in private practice, who also holds a pilot's license.

Two months later a plane crash occurred on Sunday August 2, 1998 in Worthington. Both the pilot and passenger were killed in the crash. After spending nearly 24 hours working at the scene of this aircraft accident, Capt. David Cunningham reflected on how valuable the June training had been. Capt. Cunningham contacted John Burke to thank him for the useful information they had gained. Specifically, the responders recognized the immediate need for an incident command system and began anticipating a multi-agency response. He saw the need for air support to search for the downed aircraft and called for the State Police and the Lifeflight helicopters.

Once the crash scene had been located, he said, "We were fully aware of the potential dangers of the fuel and electrical systems of the aircraft and took the necessary precautions to keep ourselves safe in working around the aircraft by stabilizing both the

fuel and electrical systems as we were taught in the course."

Finally, once it was determined that there were no lives to save, he recognized the legal requirement of declaring the scene a "crime scene" and to protect all possible evidence for the federal



Instructor John Burke

authorities who would soon arrive. In fact, he told John he was complimented by the State Police and the Federal authorities for the excellent

job they did in recognizing this fact and keeping the aircraft undisturbed for that purpose. ♦

MFIRS Corner

Fire Departments should have received two pages of 1998 feedback reports from the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) in August. The purpose of these reports is to make sure that the data we have in our database for the community is accurate. The reports indicate how many fires have been reported for each of the first six months of the year and how many fires by type of situation found have been reported during each of the first six months.

If a fire department received only the cover memo with no reports attached, then as of 8/6/98 your department has not submitted any fire incidents. Please keep in mind that any data submitted after 8/6/98 was not included in this report. This is the opportunity to make corrections, bring your reporting up to date, and to identify any problems with local reporting procedures before we get to the end of the year and publication of the annual report.

Please examine these reports closely. For example: is the dollar loss amount for your community accurate? This is a friendly reminder to submit your data for 1998, and if you're caught up, keep up the good work. If you have any questions please contact Amy Uzdavinis at (978) 567-3382. Thanks! ♦

Hazardous Materials Response Program

Since the last Newsletter, the Hazardous Materials Response Division of the Department of Fire Services has responded to 34 incidents. 28 were Tier 1 – Hazard Risk Assessment and 6 were Tier 2, Entry and Mitigation. The break down by response district was, District 1 – 6, District 2 – 9, District 3 – 7, District 4 – 0, District 5 – 2, and District 6 – 10.

The following is a list of the locations of the incidents:

5/25/98	District 6	West Newbury	Tier 1	Sodium Hydroxide & Muriatic Acid
5/28/98	District 2	Everett	Tier 1	Canceled
5/28/98	District 2	Weymouth	Tier 1 – 2	Adhesive Spill
6/3/98	District 2	Waltham	Tier 1	Ferric Chloride
6/4/98	District 3	Concord	Tier 1	Hydrogen Peroxide and Peracetic Acid Spill
6/8/98	District 6	Lowell	Tier 2	Fire – with hazardous vapors
6/8/98	District 6	Amesbury	Tier 1	Canceled
6/8/98	District 3	Amesbury	Tier 1	Sulfuric Acid Fumes
6/13/98	District 1	Easton	Tier 1	Chlorine Spill
6/15/98	District 6	West Boylston	Tier 1	Sodium Hydroxide
6/15/98	District 2	Newton	Tier 2	Pool Chemical Spill
6/17/98	District 1	Yarmouth	Tier 1	Mercury Spill
6/22/98	District 1	Westwood	Tier 1	Hydrochloric Acid Spill
6/24/98	District 3	Southboro	Tier 1	Canceled
6/25/98	District 2	Milton	Tier 1	Muriatic Acid
6/27/98	District 3	Ashland	Tier 1	Dry Cleaning Solvent
6/28/98	District 6	Ashburnham	Tier 1	Fuel Oil
7/1/98	District 2	Winchester	Tier 1	Ethylene Oxide
7/4/98	District 1	Westport	Tier 1	Pool chemical fumes in house
7/7/98	District 6	Westminster	Tier 1	Acetone Spill/Fire
7/12/98	District 1	Dover	Tier 1	Unknown vapor leak from refrigeration unit
7/17/98	District 3	Ashland	Tier 1	Perchloroethylene Spill
7/19/98	District 6	Lowell	Tier 1	Throurea Dioxide
7/21/98	District 2	Watertown	Tier 2	Sodium
7/22/98	District 1	Walpole	Tier 1	
7/22/98	District 3	Milford	Tier 1	Chlorine Spill
7/23/98	District 6	Chelmsford	Tier 1	Canceled
7/25/98	District 6	Andover	Tier 1	Argon Tank Leak
7/26/98	District 6	Lowell	Tier 2	Battery Charging System
7/26/98	District 2	Somerville	Tier 1	Print Shop Cleaners/solvents
7/28/98	District 2	Medford	Tier 1	Mercury
7/31/98	District 3	Ashland	Tier 1	Resin reaction
8/5/98	District 5	Adams	Tier 2	Hydrogen Sulfide Release
8/12/98	District 5	West Stockbridge	Tier 1	Canceled ♦

Fire Investigations

Continued from page 11

got lost en route and stopped to speak with a State Police Trooper on Route 93 who had responded to a motor vehicle accident. An EMT who had also responded to the accident scene, examined the girl, treated her burns and called for a helicopter to take her to Shriners Burns Institute in Boston.

"This highlights two major fire safety problems," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, "Keep matches and lighters out of reach and out of sight of young children. Children as young as two and a half have been known to operate lighters."

"The second major fire safety issue is that gasoline is a motor fuel and nothing else. There is no other reasonable use of gasoline. Any other use is foolish and invites injury," he added.

Pouring gasoline on a fire or adding charcoal lighter fluid to a barbecue that is already going can cause a serious problem. The fire can travel up the stream of gasoline or lighter fluid to the container."


Other camping safety tips include:

- Use a flashlight inside the tent, never a candle or other open flame.
- Keep a bucket of water near the campfire.
- Clear brush, pine needles or other combustibles away from the campfire in a three-foot radius. ♦

**"Fire Drills:
The Great Escape!"**

**"A fire in your home
is no illusion.
Have a plan
for your Great
Escape and
practice it."**

— David Copperfield


Sponsored by the
National Fire Protection
Association

**Fire Prevention Week
October 4-10, 1998**

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to:

Jennifer Mieth, Editor, **DFS Quarterly**, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community.



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES
P.O. Box 1025
Stow, MA 01775